

REMARKS

A. *Overview*

Claims 1-61 were pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 22 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled and claims 62-78 are new. The present response is an earnest effort to place all claims in proper form for immediate allowance or better form for appeal. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

B. *Allowed Claims*

The finding of allowability of claims 23-61 is gratefully acknowledged.

C. *Claim Objections*

Claims 2-6 and 10 have been objected to but found allowable if rewritten in independent form including limitations of any base claim and intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the contents of claim 2. It is therefore submitted to be allowable. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Dependent claims 3-22 are therefore submitted to be allowable as being dependent from an allowable independent claim.

New independent claim 62 incorporates the limitations of claim 10 and intervening claims 7, 8 and 9 with the original language of claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted to be allowable. New dependent claims 63-78 are based on original claims 3-6 and 11-22 and are submitted to be allowable as being dependent from an allowable independent claim.

D. Rejections of Claims

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 7-9, 11-21 based on either Gordin, U.S. Patent No. 5,707,142 alone or in combination with McIngvale, U.S. Patent No. 4,918,582. These rejections are respectfully traversed. However, to prosecute the present application in form for allowance, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending are in allowable form. This is without prejudice to pursue the rejected claims in a related application.

E. Substitute Specification

As suggested by the Examiner, a substitute specification is attached.

F. Drawing

Enclosed please replacement sheets of the drawings. It is respectfully submitted this shows the legend at the left side in legible form on sheet 6. Approval is respectfully requested.

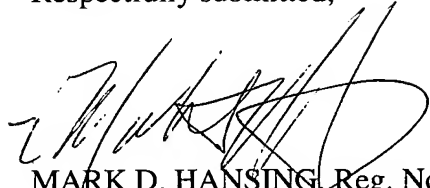
G. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all matters raised by the Office Action have been addressed and remedied, and that the present application is in form for allowance.

Enclosed is our check in the amount of **\$1,050.00** (1 new independent claims X \$200=\$200 and 17 new claims total X \$50=\$850). No additional fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Hansing', written over a horizontal line.

MARK D. HANSING, Reg. No. 30,643
McKEE, VOORHEES & SEASE, P.L.C.
801 Grand Avenue, Suite 3200
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2721
Phone No: (515) 288-3667
Fax No: (515) 288-1338
CUSTOMER NO: 22885

Attorneys of Record

- bja -

Attachments - Replacement Sheets of Drawings (24)
Original Specification as filed
Substitute Specification with markings